

# Switzerland

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## **Organization and Number of Staff:**

GLOBE Switzerland is organized as an association (NGO) with a national implementation office situated in Berne, the capital of Switzerland. At the office in Berne three staff members work part time (at 60% to 80%). In addition, GLOBE Switzerland has seven regional offices implementing the GLOBE program in 3 languages (German, French, and Italian). The regional implementation is done by mandates to Teacher Education Universities (part time jobs of 10% to 20%) and allows to have direct access with the GLOBE activities to students' courses.

## **Funding by:**

GLOBE Switzerland has major funding by the Swiss Federal Office of Environment. Additional funding for events and R&D projects comes from private foundations, US Embassy, other Swiss Federal Offices and sponsors.

## **Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:**

GLOBE Switzerland has close cooperation with **all regional Teachers Education Universities**, some with and some without mandates. In addition, we cooperate with Swiss Federal Research Institutions, with universities and Federal Institutes of Technology for R&D projects, for science outreach, and for citizen science projects. Close collaboration exists with the Swiss Academy of Science and with different national environmental education programs.

## **GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):**

After a close check of all GLOBE schools in Switzerland (236), inactive schools were contacted for a follow-up. Some primary, secondary, and high schools left the GLOBE program mainly due to retirement of teachers – therefore we have 164 active schools left. Most of the schools are public, some are private ones. Like each year, a few new schools were joining the program.

However, far more schools in Switzerland use the GLOBE offers without being part of the GLOBE school network and often without entering data. The most often mentioned reason for not being part and not entering data is lack of time.

### **GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:**

Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Biosphere, Pedosphere, and Earth as a System. Complementary to international protocols, national offers on agriculture (biodiversity and climate change), phenology and water quality are very often implemented.

### **Number of Schools Reporting Data Over Past Year:**

14

### **Program Implementation, International Cooperation in GLOBE Network, and Activities over Past Year (categorized by GLOBE Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Goals):**

#### **1. Education**

In **numerous GLOBE introductory trainings and workshops** for in-service and pre-service teachers, future multipliers in all regions of Switzerland could be reached by the national implementation office and by the seven regional offices. The training units were carried out by trainers and our regional experts who are employed at the Universities of teacher Education. In addition to workshops **more than 300 individual consultations of teachers were carried out** as in the last year before or while they were implementing GLOBE offers. In 2023, three Mentor Trainer and five Trainer were officially approved.

#### **2. Science**

We are steadily working on our national GLOBE offers in collaboration with partners of teachers' education and with scientific partners. In addition, we have **close collaboration with the Swiss Federal Office of Environment** to develop science education offers adapted to their needs. In 2023, our collaboration was focused on **the following partners from science:**

- **ETH Zurich:** Training course for young scientists to accompany school classes in their research projects on farms on biodiversity and climate change.
- **ETH Zurich, Swiss Academy of Science and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture:** consultation for teachers on science outreach for the two topics biodiversity and climate change.
- **Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL:** Common projects on phenology in forests and forest pests.
- **Botanical Garden of the University of Berne:** Training course for citizens and public relations for topics around phenology.
- **Swiss Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology:** Common project on phenology.
- **Lucerne Teachers Education University:** Common R&D project on development of offers for Education on Sustainable Development

#### **3. Community**

With the newly mandated Zurich Teacher Education University a very important region of Switzerland can adequately be reached with the GLOBE Program. Many schools and teachers have been informed on possibilities and offers of GLOBE Switzerland.

#### **4. Technology**

We steadily work on our offers, restructure **our GLOBE website** (in three languages), and make it more user-friendly.

In the area of phenology, we are working on the **introduction of temperature and humidity probes (air and soil) to measure the microclimate** in observed plants. These data are now included to our phenology WebApp.

## **5. Communications**

Three to five times a year the national implementation office sends a newsletter to Swiss teachers' network. Each time, the newsletter contains the most important information coming from international program and points out activities, campaigns and training opportunities. If necessary, target groups are contacted by direct mailings. We **regularly promote selected offers on social media**.

### **Plans and Ideas for Next Year:**

Over the next year, we are focusing on action orientation in a **R&D project**. We want to move from research and understanding to action with all our offers. This is part of the Swiss goals in Education in Sustainable Development.

We will launch the **2<sup>nd</sup> Swiss GLOBE Contest in April 2024 with a closing National Students Conference on June 13, 2025**. All information about the Contest and the Conference can be found here: [https://www.globe-swiss.ch/de/Aktuell/GLOBE\\_Contest/](https://www.globe-swiss.ch/de/Aktuell/GLOBE_Contest/)